Volume 2, No. 12

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

29 April 2002

Week of 29 April 2002

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Act (H.R. 3909).

This bill designates 15 acres of land near Huntsville, UT as a nature preserve. The bill authorizes the Federal Government to contract with the Gunn McKay Nature Preserve Foundation to manage the land. The land currently generates no receipts; therefore, designating the land as a nature preserve is not expected to result in a loss of receipts. The bill also will not increase direct spending (spending not subject to annual appropriations).

- 2) **Yosemite National Park Educational Facilities Improvement Act** (H.R. 3421). This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make payments of up to \$750,000 to two California school districts that serve families of Yosemite National Park Employees. The Secretary may use appropriated funds, donations, or offsetting receipts from certain National Park Service fees. The Park Service already has authority to spend nearly all of the potential offsetting receipts; therefore, the increase in direct spending will be less than \$500,000 a year. Because the allocation to the Committee on Resources does not allow for even this small amount, the increase in direct spending violates section 302(f) of the Budget Act. In addition, this bill first provides budget authority in fiscal year 2003. Thus, the bill also violates section 303 of the Budget Act, which bars consideration of any bill that first becomes effective for a year in which a budget resolution has not been adopted. (Although the House has passed a budget resolution, the Senate has yet to consider the budget resolution for fiscal year 2003.)
- 3) Recognizing the Historical Significance of the Aquia Sandstone Quarries of Government Island in Stafford County, Virginia (H.Res. 261).



This resolution recognizes these quarries for their contributions to the construction of the Capital of the United States. The resolution has no budgetary impact.

4) Virginia Key Beach Park, Florida, National Park System Feasibility Study Act (H.R. 2109). This bill requires the National Park Service to evaluate the national significance of Virginia Key Beach Park in Biscayne Bay, FL, and the suitability and feasibility of establishing it as a National Park. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.



(continued on next page)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

- 5) *Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Study Act of 2001* (H.R. 2628).

 This bill requires the National Park Service to study an area of Northern Alabama to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing it as a National Heritage Area. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- 6) Strengthening Science at the Environmental Protection Agency Act (H.R. 64).

 This bill establishes a new position at the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to be known as the Deputy Director for Science and Technology, who would report directly to the Administrator. This bill also redesignates one of the current Assistant Administrator positions as Chief Scientist and Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.
- 7) To Extend the Authority of the Export-Import Bank until May 31, 2002 (S. 2248). This bill extends the operations of the Export-Import Bank until 31 May 2002, pending the reauthorization of the Bank. The bill has not yet been scored by the Congressional Budget Office [CBO]. Nevertheless, the Budget Committee does not expect the bill to increase direct spending or decrease revenue.
- 8) Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service (H.Con.Res. 347).
 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 9) Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Book Festival (H.Con.Res. 348).
 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 10) Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (H.Con.Res. 354).

 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 11) Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (H.Con.Res. 356).
 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 12) Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Better Hearing and Speech Month (H.Con Res. 358).

 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
- 13) Supporting a National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month (H.Con.Res. 388).
 This resolution has no budgetary implications.
 14) Supporting a National Charter Schools Week (H.Con.Res. 386).
- 14) **Supporting a National Charter Schools Week** (H.Con.Res. 386). This resolution honors the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Nation's first charter school, and it acknowledges and commends the charter school movement. The resolution has no budgetary impact.
- 15) *Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002* (H.R. 3801).

 This bill restructures and reauthorizes, through 2008, programs authorized under the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 and the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994. The bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue.

(continued on next page)

Budget Week Page 2

16) Honoring the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers Men's Hockey and Wrestling Teams and the University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs Women's Hockey Team for Winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship.



This resolution has no budgetary impact.

17) Multilateral Development Banks Authorization Act (H.R. 2604).

This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$276 million over the 2002-2006 period for the United States' contribution to the Asian Development Fund and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The bill also authorizes \$10 million in 2002 for grants to the funds to be used to increase the transparency of their operations. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: **Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002** (H.R. 2871)

Committee: Summary:

Committee on Financial Services

This bill extends the authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States [Eximbank] to enter into new direct loan obligations and new guaranteed loan commitments through 2005, and would increase the bank's statutory ceiling on its aggregate outstanding loans, quarantees, and insurance. The bill expands the Eximbank's set-aside for financing exports by small businesses from 10 percent to 20 percent, and directs the bank to expand outreach to exporters owned by socially disadvantaged individuals and women. In addition, the bill changes the name of the Tied Aid Credit Fund to the Export

Competitiveness Fund, and sets more permissive standards for using the fund. Monies in the fund (currently about \$325 million) are available until expended. The bill further limits the Secretary of the Treasury's authority to veto individual transactions and authorizes the

Eximbank to offer more generous financing than currently permitted.

Budget Act: This bill amends section 1105(a) of title 31 of the U.S. Code, which lists elements required

to be included in the President's annual budget submission to Congress. It adds the requirement that the President's budget include a subcategory for the Eximbank that details the appropriation requests for various programs within the bank. Section 1105(a) is within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee. Section 306 of the Budget Act bars the consideration of any bill containing matter within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee that has not either been reported by or discharged from that committee. Because this bill has not been referred to the Budget Committee, it violates section 306 of the Budget Act.

Bill: Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (H.R. 3994)



Committee:

International Relations

Summary:

This bill authorizes the President to provide assistance for Afghanistan through 2004 for the following: 1) urgent humanitarian needs; 2) repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons; 3) counternarcotics efforts; 4) reestablishment of food security, rehabilitation of the agriculture sector, improvement in health conditions, and the reconstruction of basic infrastructure; 5) reestablishment of Afghanistan as a nation-state by supporting the development of democratic and market-based institutions; and 6) support for the establishment of a market economy, private financial institutions, the development of a telecommunications infrastructure, and trade and commercial links. According to CBO, this bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1 billion for humanitarian

Budget Act:

and economic assistance over the 2002-2005 period, and an amount not specified for military assistance. CBO estimates implementing H.R. 3994 would cost \$1.2 billion over the 2002-2007 period, assuming the appropriation of necessary funds. This bill would not affect direct spending or revenue, and does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

The House Committee on the Budget

Budget Week Page 3